

CONFIDENTIAL.]

## REPORT

(No. 49 of 1881.

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 3rd December 1881.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
	BENGALI.			
	Monthly.			
1	"Bhárat Shramajíví" ...	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grámvártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly	175	
	Fortnightly.			
3	"Sansodhiní" ...	Chittagong	600	21st November 1881.
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ...	Ditto	.....	
	Weekly.			
5	"Ananda Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta	700	
6	"Arya Darpan" ...	Ditto	.....	2nd December 1881.
7	"Bhárat Bandhu" ...	Ditto	.....	
8	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensing	671	22nd November 1881.
9	"Bengal Advertiser" ...	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwán Sanjívaní" ...	Burdwan	296	29th ditto.
11	"Chárvártá" ...	Sherepore, Mymensing	.....	21st ditto.
12	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Dacca	350	27th ditto.
13	"Dút" ...	Calcutta	.....	
14	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	745	2nd December 1881.
15	"Halisahar Prakáshiká" ...	Calcutta	.....	26th November 1881.
16	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Beauleah, Rájsháhye	200	30th ditto.
17	"Mediní" ...	Midnapore	.....	
18	"Murshidábád Patriká" ...	Berhampore	487	26th ditto.
19	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto	.....	
20	"Navavibhákar" ...	Calcutta	850	28th ditto.
21	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet	.....	20th ditto.
22	"Pratikár" ...	Berhampore	275	
23	"Rajshahye Samvád" ...	Beauleah	.....	
24	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kakiniá, Rungpore	250	1st December 1881.
25	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah	500	
26	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta	500	30th November 1881.
27	"Som Prakásh" ...	Changripottá, 24-Perghs.	.....	28th ditto.
28	"Sudhákar" ...	Mymensing	.....	
39	"Sulabha Samáchár" ...	Calcutta	4,000	26th ditto.
30	"Sríhatta Prakásh" ...	Sylhet	440	
31	"Tripurá Vártávaha" ...	Commillah	.....	
	Daily.			
32	"Samvád Prabhákar" ...	Calcutta	700	25th November to 1st December 1881.
33	"Samvád Púrnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	300	23rd ditto to 3rd ditto.
34	"Samáchár Chandriká" ...	Ditto	625	28th ditto to 2nd ditto.
35	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ...	Ditto	500	28th ditto to 3rd ditto.
36	"Prabháti" ...	Ditto	.....	28th ditto to 3rd ditto.
37	"Samáchár Sudáhbarsan" ...	Ditto	.....	
	ENGLISH AND URDU.			
	Weekly.			
38	"Urdu Guide" ...	Ditto	365	26th November 1881.
	HINDI.			
	Weekly.			
49	"Behár Bandhu" ...	Bankipore, Patna	500	24th ditto.
40	"Bhárat Mitra" ...	Calcutta	500	24th ditto.
41	"Sár Sudhánidhi" ...	Ditto	200	21st. and 28th November 1881.
42	"Uchit Baktá" ...	Ditto	.....	26th November 1881.
	PERSIAN.			
	Weekly.			
43	"Jám-Jahán-numá" ...	Ditto	250	25th ditto.
	URDU.			
	Weekly.			
44	"Akhbár-i-Darussaltanat" ...	Ditto	.....	
	ASSAMESE.			
	Monthly.			
45	"Assam Vilásini" ...	Sibsagar	.....	
	URDU.			
	Weekly.			
46	"Utkal Dipiká" ...	Cuttack	.....	12th, 19th, and 26th November 1881.

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

**PARIDARSHAK,**  
November 20th, 1881.

The projected railway to Assam. The *Paridarshak*, of the 20th November, observes, in reference to the projected railway to Assam, that railway communication with this part of the Empire

is extremely needed for strategic purposes. Sylhet, Cachar, and the other districts on the eastern frontier of India, are subject to frequent inroads of savage hill tribes, the effectual suppression of which would require the prompt despatch of troops from either Calcutta or Dacca. This is, however, almost impossible under present arrangements, and so it is not uncommon to find that, long after a village has been plundered by the hill tribes, troops are sent to the scene of action. It is the opening of railway communication with the frontier that alone can remedy this state of matters. Government should therefore endeavour by all means to encourage the projected construction of a railway to Assam by private enterprise. The guarantee asked by the projectors is very reasonable, and Government cannot too soon accept their offer. The Editor then proceeds to dwell upon other advantages which are likely to accrue from the establishment of railway communication with Assam, such, for instance, as the expansion of the inland traffic and the development of the natural resources of that part of the country.

**CHARU VARTA,**  
November 21st, 1881.

2. The *Charu Varta*, of the 21st November, remarks, in reference to the employment of certain civilians as moon-siffs.

Civilians as moon-siffs. that there does not appear to be any necessity of training up civilians in judicial work. The interests of the country rather demand that Europeans should not be appointed to the post of Sessions Judge. Considering that native judicial officers have repeatedly obtained the commendations of Government for the manner in which they have done their work, it is not clear why the authorities should be so anxious to devise means for the employment of a costly foreign agency in the judicial service of the country. Government has repeatedly promised to employ natives more extensively in this branch of the public service, but the promise is now as far from fulfilment as ever.

**CHARU VARTA.**

3. The same paper, while fully recognizing the advantages likely to accrue from the establishment of savings banks in connection with the post-office, is nevertheless of opinion that the rule laying down that "money cannot be deposited in the name of two or more persons jointly" will work injuriously in the case of all poor undivided joint families living in commensality.

In such families the collective earnings of the members, after paying the expenses of the household, are placed in a common fund. If this rule remained in force they might not find it convenient to deposit their savings in the name of any one particular member, while, on the contrary, the division of the amount among the members would perhaps leave such a small sum in each one's hands as would be less than the minimum amount of deposit which can be made under the rules.

**SANSODHINI,**  
November 21st, 1881.

4. The *Sansodhini*, of the 21st November, thinks it is time that the practice of sending unpaid letters by post,

which frequently occasions great inconvenience to the addressees, should be abolished by Government. Now that cheap post-cards are almost everywhere procurable, the discontinuance of the practice is not likely to cause any inconvenience to the public.

**BHARAT MIHIR,**  
November 22nd, 1881.

Sir Ashley Eden on local self-government.

5. The *Bharat Mihir*, of the 22nd November, makes the following observations in an article headed "Sir Ashley Eden's circular":—Sir Ashley Eden has done well in publishing for general information the circular he has addressed to all Divisional Commissioners, on the subject of the extension of local self-government among the people of this country.

The doubts which were so long troubling the public mind, as to the success of Lord Ripon's scheme in consequence of the well-known views of the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject of the elective system, will now be laid at rest. There is now no longer any ground for questioning his motives or acts. Sir Ashley Eden knows how to read the signs of the times. We do not, however, agree in all his views, and believe that, unless his opinion on certain important points connected with this subject undergoes a change, the scheme of local self-government will be but half developed, and not be given a fair trial. The Editor then proceeds to state what he considers to be objectionable in the circular—

- (1.)—Government, while it proposes to transfer certain heads of expenditure to the control of the local boards, does not transfer to their control any fixed sources of income, except the receipts from ferries and cattle-pounds. The plan of making an annual grant from the provincial funds is neither reasonable nor wise. Matters cannot go on smoothly where, for every head of regular and certain expenditure, there is not provided a regular and certain source of income. It would not be wise to make the local boards thus helplessly dependent upon Government for funds. With the exception of Government buildings and canals, all other public works, such as roads, &c., are proposed to be transferred to the management of the local boards, and yet the proceeds of the public works cess are not, it seems, to be transferred to their hands. This revenue, however, should be surrendered to them, the Lieutenant-Governor finding out some other means for the payment of the interest of the capital already invested in public works. These local bodies would not be able to do any useful work unless the revenue yielded by the public works cess was transferred to their administration. Government, it would seem, will not make any money grants unless the Magistrates are willing to recommend such action. This means that local boards will continue to be playthings in the hands of magisterial officers. The road cess will probably continue to be administered by these local bodies, no reference to this matter having been made in the Government circular under notice.
- (2.)—The Lieutenant-Governor is silent as to how the appointment of members shall be made. If it is desired to make the district boards really useful, nothing short of the introduction of the elective system will answer this purpose. The system of nomination, as worked by the Magistrates, has been productive of injurious consequences.
- (3.)—In the matter of education, the boards should be vested with powers as to the holding of examinations, distribution of scholarships, appointment of teachers, the making of grants-in-aid, and the disposal of other matters connected with schools.
- (4.)—The District Magistrates are to be appointed chairmen of district boards. This is Lord Ripon's suggestion, and so one cannot blame Sir Ashley Eden for this. But it should be clearly understood that the object of Lord Ripon will not be attained, and self-government will continue to be a farce until district boards are made perfectly independent of the magistrates.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
November 22nd, 1881.

6. The same paper contains a long article on existing municipalities in this country, and the best means of making them really representative institutions. The

Municipalities.  
Editor would like to see all municipalities made distinct from and perfectly independent of the district boards. The two bodies can work most usefully by each working in its proper sphere. The Municipal Commissioners should constitute the only representative body in places where municipalities exist. In connection with these institutions also, Magistrates should cease to be Chairmen.

BHARAT MIHIR.

7. The same paper dwells upon the necessity that has arisen of promoting primary education in this country, and is thankful to Lord Ripon for his efforts to extend it.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,  
November 23rd, 1881.

8. A correspondent of the *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 23rd November, writing to that journal from Nattore, refers to the hostile attitude taken up by the tenantry of the Dina Gepore district, particularly those

Combination of tenantry against their landlords in Dina Gepore.  
of the Mashidha pergannah, against their landlords. The ryots have made a combination, and begun to oppose the reasonable demand of the landlords to measure their lands. The agent of the zemindar of the Mashidha pergannah has been recently the victim of a false criminal prosecution conducted by the tenants, who still threaten him with further troubles.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
November 26th, 1881.

9. The *Sulabha Samachár*, of the 26th November, thanks the Lieutenant-Governor for the careful consideration which he has given to the important subject of epidemic fever in Bengal, and for the

appointment by him of a Commission to report on the sanitary condition of the districts of Nuddea and Beerbboom. His name will be long remembered by the people if he succeeds in finding means for saving Bengal from this dreadful scourge. But His Honor should be careful that, in his anxiety to attain this noble object, he does not become the means of bringing fresh troubles upon the people. Long suffering has reduced the inhabitants of villages suffering from the malarious fever to extreme destitution; and it will but aggravate their misery if they are now called upon to cut down jungle, re-excavate tanks, or subscribe in aid of any sanitary works. His Honor is besought to take this point into his consideration.

SULABHA SAMACHAR.

10. A correspondent of the same paper complains that owing to the dilatoriness of the local authorities in granting compensation great hardship is being

caused to the proprietors of the lands which have been taken up by Government in connection with the Seebpore Engineering College. The value fixed is very low. It is now over two years that the lands have been taken, and yet the money has not been paid.

MEDINI,  
November 26th, 1881.

British Government and the people  
of this country.

11. The *Medini*, of the 26th November, remarks, in the course of an editorial, that the people of this country so fully appreciate the advantages of British rule, and are so grateful for them, that they

generally overlook any particular instance of injustice or hardship caused by any action of the authorities. Unfortunately of late, however, such instances have occurred so repeatedly that they are obliged to complain. Superior European officials have begun to treat with impunity their native subordinates in a markedly contemptuous manner. In a similar manner Government disregards the representations of the people as to the necessity of reducing the high salaries of European officials.

12. As instances of highhandedness on the part of magisterial officers, which should receive the attention of Two model Magistrates.

Sir Ashley Eden, the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 27th November, refers to certain recent proceedings of Lieutenant Macdonald, the Cantonment Magistrate of Dum-Dum, and of Mr. Sharp, the Joint-Magistrate of Bogra. The former, a few days ago, cruelly assaulted with his horsewhip the driver of a hackney carriage, because the man had the audacity to drive his gharry before his; while the latter ordered the members of a peaceful and authorized Brahmo procession to be arrested for disturbing his peace. [The particulars have been taken from other papers.]

DACCA PRAKASH.  
November 27th, 1881.

13. The same paper observes, in reference to the circular issued by the

Sir Ashley Eden on local self-government.

Lieutenant-Governor to all Divisional Commissioners, on the subject of the extension of local self-government, that there are grave doubts as to the success of the efforts which are being made by Lord Ripon in this connection. It is to be feared that the obstructiveness of local officials will reduce the scheme of self-government for natives to an idle farce.

DACCA PRAKASH.

14. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 28th November,

The office of Viceroy.

discusses the question which is often asked, whether the office of Viceroy can be safely abolished. After considering both sides of the question, the writer comes to the conclusion that the office should be continued, if only for the purpose of exercising a salutary check upon the local officials, who would otherwise grow extremely highhanded. In the course of his letter the writer speaks of the object of British rule in India as being mainly to benefit the rulers themselves, and remotely the people of the country.

SOM PRAKASH,  
November 28th, 1881.

15. The same paper considers, in an editorial, the subject referred to

The office of Viceroy.

in the preceding paragraph, and adheres to the opinion which it has always held, that the office of Viceroy is no longer necessary, and that its abolition will (1) lead to reduction of public expenditure, (2) remove the possibility of a despotic viceroy harassing India for five years, and (3) make it possible for the people of this country to obtain redress from the English nation in case the provincial rulers grow highhanded.

SOM PRAKASH.

16. The same paper does not see why the medical faculty of the

Knowledge of Latin necessary in the case of candidates for the M. B. degree.

Calcutta University has proposed to make a knowledge of Latin compulsory in all candidates for the degree of M.B. There are no valuable medical works written in that language; all that is necessary is that these candidates should possess a knowledge of English, in which language the best medical works are composed. The proposal made by the medical faculty is nothing else but an attempt to prevent natives of this country from competing for the degree, and it is to be hoped the Syndicate will not lend their approbation to it. It would be better far to require a knowledge of Sanskrit in the candidates, valuable works on Hindu medicine being written in that language.

SOM PRAKASH.

17. The same paper dwells in a long article on the desolation which

Epidemic fever in Beerbhoom.

the malarious fever has brought upon some of the fairest parts of Bengal. Beerbhoom, which was but a few years ago one of the healthiest districts, has now, owing to the drying up of the Mayurakshi and the impure state of the tanks, become a hotbed of fever. The Editor thanks Sir Ashley Eden for the efforts which he is strenuously making to rid Bengal of this scourge, and calls upon the people to co-operate with Government in this matter.

SOM PRAKASH.

SOM PRakash,  
November 28th, 1881.

**18. With regard to the maintenance of the police from the municipal funds, the same paper observes that though the major portion of the income of municipalities goes to pay the police, the latter in return do but little for the rate-payers. The chowkeedars are extremely negligent in their duties.**

SOM PRakash.

**19. The same paper remarks that, owing to a variety of causes, the people of India are gradually losing their vitality. The chief of these, however, is disease which is brought about by obstructed drainage, poverty, struggle for earning a livelihood, indulgence in spirituous liquors, and several other insanitary conditions of native life.**

SOM PRakash.

**20. The same paper observes that, in spite of laws and circulars, the civil courts in the mofussil follow a procedure of their own in the trial of civil suits. The depositions of the plaintiffs, defendants, and their respective witnesses are first taken, and then the counsel begin their address. The proper course, however, would be for the plaintiff's counsel to open the case and bring forward his evidence, and then allow the defendant's counsel to do the same.**

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
November 28th, 1881.

**21. Referring to the appointment of a Commission to report on the cause of the epidemic fever, the *Navavibhakar*, of the 28th November, observes that there are grave doubts as to whether much good will accrue from this measure. The people have lost all faith in commissions. There have been indigo commissions and army commissions, commissions to report on the cause of cholera, and even a commission to report on the cause of the malarious fever. The last commission sat in 1864. But what has been the practical outcome of all this? Has not the prevalence of fever increased during this period? As to the present Commission, it is to be observed that there was no necessity for asking it to report on the cause of the fever, that being by this time well known, in spite of the arguments to the contrary advanced by professional men. The Lieutenant-Governor himself has at length been convinced of the correctness of the late Rajah Digumber Mitra's theory regarding the causation of the epidemic. The Commission should only, therefore, have been entrusted with the task of carrying out the necessary works for promoting sanitation. Another point is, the members should have been directed to commence operations during the rainy season, when there would have been better opportunities for observing the condition of drainage.**

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

**22. The same paper notices the recent action of Mr. Sharp, the Joint-Magistrate of Bogra, in ordering the arrest of the members of a religious procession, and**

**hopes that Sir Ashley Eden will pass an impartial decision in this case.**

SAHACHAR,  
November 30th, 1881.

**23. The *Sahachar*, of the 30th November, dwells upon a fearful increase of intemperance which has resulted from the introduction of the outstill system.**

**this measure made by Sir Ashley Eden, as one which is not approved by the public.**

URDU GUIDE,  
November 26th, 1881.

**Referring to the small number of Mahomedan gentlemen present at the durbars recently held by the Viceroy in the course of his recent tour, the *Urdu Guide*, of the 26th November, submits for the consideration of His Excellency that leading Mahomedan families are entitled to receive a greater share of patronage and encouragement at the hands of Government than is accorded them at present. Although the Mahomedan**

**Mahomedans should have a larger share of State patronage than at present.**

population of Bengal is smaller than the number of Hindus, still the former are so numerous as to deserve more recognition, in the shape of appointments to the public service, than what is vouchsafed to them.

24. The *Utkal Dipika*, of the 12th November, in an article on "Orissa Railways," earnestly urges upon the inhabitants of Cuttack and Pooree to co-operate with their

Balasore brethren in this matter. The people of Balasore have already issued their prospectus on the subject. The introduction of railway into Orissa is highly desirable.

Discipline in the Cuttack Collegiate School.

UTKAL DIPAKA,  
November 19th, 1881

25. A correspondent writes to the same paper, of the 19th November a letter, a translation of which is given below :—

UTKAL DIPAKA,  
November 19th, 1881.

"A brother of mine, by name Gangadhar, was reading in the intermediate class in the Cuttack Collegiate School. The teacher in charge of the class is Nundolall Baboo, who happened to explain in Bengali to his class the passage 'Selucus agreed to give Chundra Gupta his daughter in marriage.' He said the meaning of the word 'marriage' in Bengali is 'বিয়ে.' Now this, it must be observed, is an obscene term in Oriyah. Gangadhar, on repeating the word, laughed over it, saying 'is this the Bengali rendering of the word?' The teacher should not, in the first place, have used the word 'বিয়ে.' Had he said 'marriage' means 'বিবাহ' which is a better rendering than 'বিয়ে,' there would have been no misunderstanding. At all events, if Gangadhar has done anything to violate the discipline of the school, he should be punished for it, but such punishment ought to be commensurate with the offence committed. He has had however to undergo various punishments, viz.—First, he was directed to stand upon the bench by the teacher in charge of the class. Secondly, he was directed to go to the last place in his class. Thirdly, corporal punishment was inflicted on him by the Head Master of the school department, Baboo Ram Das Chuckerburti. Lastly he was fined one rupee. Here it must be observed that when fines are imposed on schoolboys, it is the guardians that suffer; consequently Gangadhar's father went down to the Head Master's house with the view of getting the fine remitted, making known at the same time his grievances; but the effect of this was that a further corporal punishment was inflicted on the boy. He asked leave to go to his father, but being refused left the school and went to his father to state what the matter with him was. Perhaps after this he was again fined, and ultimately his name was struck off the rolls. How far this severe punishment is equitable will be evident on comparing it with the following instance :—

"A teacher of the college, by name Gooroo Gobind Baboo, ordered Lullit, who is one of the sons of Dwarkanath Chuckerburti of the Normal School, to stand up for certain offence he had committed; but the boy disobeying the order, he was either flogged or an attempt was made to flog him by Gobind Baboo. On this the boy snatched off the ratan from the teacher's hand, for which offence he was fined one rupee, but the fine was ultimately remitted by the said Ram Das Baboo."

It is unnecessary, the correspondent says, to make further comments on the two instances quoted above, but suffice it to say that Gangadhar is the son of a poor Oriyah Pundit, while Lullit is the son of an influential Bengali, &c.

Ganga Mandir Tank.

26. The same paper, of the 26th instant, in an article on "Ganga Mandir Tank," makes the following observations :—

UTKAL DIPAKA,  
November 26th, 1881.

We have repeatedly brought the matter of the cleansing and deepening of this tank to the notice of the authorities, but we regret that all our efforts have hitherto proved fruitless, and the tank remains in the same filthy state as before. It is high time that the work should be taken in hand more especially as it is the property of Government. We would request both Government and the municipality to attend to the matter.

UTKAL DIPÍKA,  
November 12th, 1881.

27. The Editor of the *Utkal Dipiká*, of the 12th instant, is exceedingly glad to learn that Government has at last made the Ravenshaw College a permanent institution, and he therefore thanks Government for it. The Editor, however, requests Government, in view of the expenditure that will thus be incurred, to place a duly qualified and highly paid principal at the head of the institution, and in every other respect to raise it to the standard of efficiency attained by similar colleges in Bengal.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 3rd December 1881.*